

48. (New) A method according to claim 42, wherein the first communicating means conforms to an IEEE1394 standard.

49. (New) A method according to claim 48, wherein the second communicating means conforms to a RS-232C standard.

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50. (New) A method according to claim 48, wherein the second communicating means conforms to a RS-422 standard.

51. (New) A method according to claim 48, wherein the second communicating means conforms to a USB standard.

52. (New) A method according to claim 42, wherein said control step includes a setting step of setting the second communicating means in a passive mode when the external device is connected to the first communicating means.

53. (New) A method according to claim 42, wherein the second communicating means conforms to a USB standard.

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REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 28, 2000. Claims 11, 14-17, 28, 32-

34, and 42-53 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 18-27, 29-31, and 36-41 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. New Claims 43-53 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 11, 14-17, 28, 32-35, and 42 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 11, 28, and 42 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The original abstract has been replaced with a new abstract directed to the subject matter of the pending claims. Applicants submit that the new abstract does not introduce new subject matter to the disclosure that is not already disclosed in the original specification.

Claims 23-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 23-27, 29-31, and 36-41 have been cancelled, thus rendering their rejections moot. Applicants have carefully reviewed and amended Claim 28 and 32-35, as deemed necessary, to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, with special attention to the points raised in section 4 of the Office Action. It is believed that the rejections have been obviated, and, therefore, their withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 3-6, 8-13, 18,

23, 28-31, and 36-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,734,373 (Rosenberg et al.). Claims 2, 7, 14-17, 19-22, 24-27, and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenberg et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,969,750 (Hsieh et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,064,398 (Ellenby et al.). Cancellation of Claims 1-10, 12, 13, 18-27, 29-31, and 36-41 renders their rejections moot.

Applicants submit that independent Claims 11, 28, and 42, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 11 is directed to a communication apparatus. The apparatus includes first communicating means, which conforms to a first communication system, and second communicating means, which conforms to a second communication system different from the first communication system. The first communicating means receives first command data for controlling a predetermined function, and the second communicating means receives second command data for controlling the same predetermined function as the first command data.

Rosenberg et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to a computer-human interface system for providing force

feedback to a user. Such a system is suitable for computer-based simulation programs, such as so-called virtual reality programs, in which a user can physically experience forces in conjunction with events that occur in the programs. Apparently, Rosenberg et al. teaches the use of a serial port 24 and a game port 25, as shown in Fig. 1. As understood by Applicant, those ports 24 and 25 do not receive respective first and second data, both of which relate to the control of a same predetermined function.

Nothing has been found in Rosenberg et al. that teaches or suggests a communication apparatus that includes first and second communicating means, "wherein said first communicating means receives first command data for controlling a predetermined function and said second communicating means receives second command data for controlling a same predetermined function as the first command data," as recited in Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 11 is not anticipated by Rosenberg et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 28 is directed to a communication apparatus that includes first communicating means, which conforms to a first communication system, and second communicating means, which conforms to a second communication system different from the

first communication system. Control means of the apparatus sets the second communicating means in an active mode when an external device is disconnected from the first communicating means.

Applicants submit that Claim 28 is patentable over Rosenberg et al. for at least the reason that nothing has been found in Rosenberg et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a communication apparatus that includes "control means for setting said second communicating means in an active mode when an external device is disconnected from said first communicating means," as recited in Claim 28. (See, for example, pages 32-33 of the specification.) Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 28 is not anticipated by Rosenberg et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claim 42 is a method claim corresponding to Claim 28, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 28.

Hsieh et al. and Ellenby et al. were cited merely for disclosing the use of the IEEE 1394 standard, and, thus, fails to remedy the deficiencies of Rosenberg et al., as discussed above.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an

additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

a) [a plurality of] first communicating means [provided in a one-to-one correspondence with a plurality of different communication systems to transmit and receive command data for controlling a device connected to a communication line], which conforms to a first communication system; and

b) [decoding means for decoding the command data received by said plurality of communicating means and controlling a device connected to said communication line] second communicating means, which conforms to a second communication system different from the first communication system,

wherein [said decoding means generates common control data for command data received by said plurality of communicating means by respective communication systems thereof and having the same function] said first communicating means receives first command data for controlling a predetermined function and said second communicating means receives second command data for controlling a same predetermined function as the first command data.

12. (Cancelled)



13. (Cancelled)

14. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein said [plurality of] first communicating means [include  
communicating means based on an] conforms to an IEEE1394  
standard.

15. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 14,  
wherein said [plurality of] second communicating means [include  
communicating means based on an] conforms to a RS-232C standard.

16. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 14,  
wherein said [plurality of] second communicating means [include  
communicating means based on an] conforms to a RS-422 standard.

17. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 14,  
wherein said [plurality of] second communicating means [include  
communicating means based on a] conforms to a USB standard.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

a) first communicating means [for performing data communication in accordance with], which conforms to a first communication system;

b) second communicating means [for performing data communication in accordance with], which conforms to a second

communication system different from said first communication system; and

c) [first detecting means for detecting a connection state of said first communicating means with respect to a communication line; and

d)] control means for [controlling switching between said first and second communicating means in accordance with an output from said first detecting means] setting said second communicating means in an active mode when an external device is disconnected from said first communicating means.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said [plurality of] first communicating means [include communicating means based on an] conforms to an IEEE1394 standard.

33. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32,  
wherein said [plurality of] second communicating means [include  
communicating means based on an] conforms to a RS-232C standard.

34. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32,  
wherein said [plurality of] second communicating means [include  
communicating means based on an] conforms to a RS-422 standard.

35. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32,  
wherein said [plurality of] second communicating means [include  
communicating means based on a] conforms to a USB standard.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Amended) A [communication] method of controlling a communication apparatus that includes first communicating means, which conforms to a first communication system, and second communicating means, which conforms to a second communication system different from the first communication system, comprising:

[a first communication mode which performs data communication on a first communication line on the basis of a first communication system, and a second mode which performs data communication on a second communication line on the basis of a second communication system different from said first communication system,

wherein said communication modes are switched in accordance with a connection state with respect to said first communication line for said first communication system]

a control step of setting the second communicating means in an active mode when an external device is disconnected from the first communicating means.